

DIARY OF COLONEL JOSEPH HYDE PRATT

COMMANDING 105TH ENGINEERS, A. E. F.

May 18, 1918, Camp Sevier, S. C. First call, 4.30 a. m.; breakfast 5:00 a. m. Began to break camp 5:30 a. m. First company to leave, Company A, at 11:10 a. m.; last company to leave, Company E, 12:30 p. m. I left on first train via Southern Railway, leaving camp at 12:05 p.m. All were very glad to leave and be en route for France. At Kings Mountain, Bessemer City, Gastonia, Charlotte, Salisbury, High Point, and Greensboro there were large crowds out to see the troops. Left Greensboro about 9:30 p. m. This is the nearest point to home and the dear ones I will be for an unknown time (?). We are now rushing northward to a port of embarkation. May the time for the southbound trip be nearer than we now realize. Goodnight, my Mazie and my boy. My thoughts are of you two. I want to see you both.

At Greensboro Mr. and Mrs. Grantham, whose son is in C Company, were very much disappointed not to see him. Sent a hand-clasp and God-bless-you to him by me.

May 19, 1918, En Route North. Reveille 7:30 a. m. Just out of Washington. Stopped one hour at Red Cross canteen in Baltimore and Ohio Railroad yards. Men were given 15 minutes hike. Then were served coffee and sandwiches by Red Cross. Their plant very complete and doing a great deal of good. At Philadelphia apples and cigarettes were given to the men. In all the places we pass through men, women and children wave and cheer. Perhaps our people are awakening to the seriousness of the situation and will get ready to fight until the desired end is accomplished.

Reached Jersey City at 5:05 p.m., over the C. N. J. R. R. Had to unload all cars, load material on ferry. Then unload from ferry on to train. Trainmaster said we made the best time of any organ-